

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 29-58 are pending. Claims 29, 31, 32 and 49 are amended, and new dependent claims 59-66 are added. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 53-57.

In the Office Action claim 32 is objected to because of an informality. In response the claim is amended so as to move one of two recitations of "An agricultural machine," and to recite that "at least two lateral work units arranged, during work, on either side of the carrying vehicle and outside of a work area of the front work units." It is therefore requested that the objection to the claim be withdrawn.

Claims 29-52 and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/017534 to Franet et al. (Franet). It is requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and the claims allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 29, is directed to an agricultural machine including a carrying vehicle and plural work units configured to cut a standing product, the work units being connected to the carrying vehicle. Claim 29 further recites that at least two lateral work units are arranged, during work, on either side of the carrying vehicle and outside of a work area of front work units.

The claimed invention can provide numerous advantages. By way of specific non-limiting examples, it is submitted that the claimed arrangement of lateral work units arranged during work on either side of a carrying vehicle results in an optimal weight distribution of the work units on the vehicle. As a result, the agricultural machine is optimally balanced. Further, this optimal balance permits placement of multiple front work units on the carrying vehicle, and permits the lateral work units to extend a greater distance, as compared to a carrying vehicle that places all of the work units at the front of the vehicle. As a result, the claimed agricultural machine can cut standing product in a comparatively much wider area.

Franet is directed to a mowing arrangement including cutting angle adjustable mowing heads. As shown in Figure 1, for example, of Franet, the cutting/mowing arrangement 10 of the carrier vehicle 12 includes three mowing units 14 placed at the front of the vehicle 12. It is therefore submitted that Franet does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of at least two lateral work units arranged, during work, on either side of a carrying vehicle and outside of a work area of front work units, as recited in independent claim 29. Therefore, it is further submitted that Franet cannot provide the above discussed advantages provided by the claimed invention, including the optimal balance and comparatively wider work area.

For the above reasons it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 29 be withdrawn, and the allowance of claim 29 is requested.

Independent claims 31, 32 and 49 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed with respect to claim 29. The allowance of claims 31, 32 and 49 is requested.

The remaining claims are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features particularly in combination with

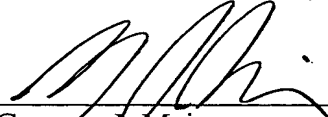
the features of the independent claims. The allowance of the dependent claims is therefore requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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